

LITTLE LIARS?NOOO----- IT CAN'T BE

I was working outside planting flowers with my daughter who was three years old at the time. She liked playing in the dirt and didn't mind getting her hands dirty. She wanted to go inside to watch cartoons, so I rinsed her hands off and instructed her, "DO NOT sit on the furniture, but sit on the floor until I come in to give you a bath". She politely (as usual) said "ok Mommy" and skipped inside. Several minutes later when I entered the house, she was sitting with her legs crossed; and dirty hands and arms on the armrest of my ivory wingtip lounge. I yelled "**JESSICA WHAT DID I TELL YOU TO DO!!!?**" She replied, "**you told me not to sit on the furniture and to sit on the floor**". Then I said, "**well what is that you're sitting on young lady!?**". She looked down at the chair calmly and said "**oh, I thought it was the floor.**"

I was already angry seeing her on my ivory chair with dirt everywhere, but lying about it made me furious. I yelled for her to get out of the chair and marched her to the bathroom to take a bath. Meanwhile, I spent the evening trying to clean all the dirt off my fine furniture.

In hindsight, for a toddler, I have to give her points for such a clever and quick response, if it wasn't such an obvious lie. That should have given me a clue that she may be a handful when she became a teenager, because she was.

Obviously, she heard me but rather than say "I'm sorry" or "I forgot" she lied. But why? After all, she was only three. How could a three year old learn to lie so easily? As parents we try our best to groom our children to be good little people, and pray the rest of the time; hoping they will turn out okay. Whether they have your DNA or not, they still form their own habits, opinions, likes and dislikes at a very early age. My former mentor used to say it best, "**Children are little people too**".

Children (toddlers) lie too, just like grownups. But how did they learn? Most times it's by example. They are always watching us. They hear our conversations, they see how we react to things: happy, sad, angry. They try to respond as we do because they have no other reference point. It's not just the parents but it can be anyone they're close to; especially those living with them or around a lot.

You can teach your children to do the right thing, but still, ***your entire life is on display every day, right before their little eyes.*** There is no such thing as "***Just do as I say and not as I do***" to a kid.

"Actions speak louder than words".

How did my Jessica learn to lie so well? She knew how I felt about lying. I didn't have to look far. Her example was right in our house with us. The good news is, with a little patience, discipline and a whole lot of examples for her to follow; meaning me, she learned.

I'm not gone lie either, It took a while, but she finally understood that "Mommy doesn't like lying" and to always be truthful even if she did something wrong that may get her in trouble. And You know what else helped? Her example was no longer around, so problem solved ...YAH.

Be Your Best Always,

Amy